



Course Outline

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Social Studies Dept.
Sycamore High School

Office Hours: Before school and then 2nd and 10th hours in my room OR stop in for A lunch if you'd like!

Course Description: World Cultures is a required one year long course that can be taken during a student's freshmen or sophomore year. This class is a people-centered study involving an in-depth look at the world's major cultures. The study of each of these cultures will focus upon historical and present-day culture and geography, family life and structure, social organizations, attitude on education, religious beliefs and institutions, economic life, political trends, and the intellectual and artistic accomplishments of men and women within the culture. The study of each of the cultures will be supplemented by the development of reading, writing, research, geography, critical thinking, study/note-taking, technological use and presentation skills.

Objectives: Through completion of this course, students will be able to:

- ✓ Have a working understanding of various political, economic, social and religious institutions.
- ✓ Understand the five themes of geography and their impact on political, economic, social and cultural organizations.
- ✓ Utilize proper study skills that will enable student success in further courses and examinations.
- ✓ Analyze social consequences of environmental, economic, political and cultural events.
- ✓ Demonstrate an ability to effectively utilize available technology and resources.
- ✓ Identify high frequency vocabulary words within the social sciences.

Course Outline:

First Semester:

Introduction to Social Studies

Unit One::

Unit Two: Human/Cultural Geography

Unit Three: Canada & the United States

Unit Four: Latin America

Second Semester:

Unit Five: Europe & Russia

Unit Six: Africa
Southwest & Central Asia

Unit Seven: Monsoon Asia

Unit Eight:

Text: *Geography! Alive: Regions and People*. Teachers Curriculum Institute, 2019

NCAA Accredited/Approved: Yes

Grading Calculation: Quarter grades will be 80% of the semester final grade and the final exam will be the remaining 20%. **Required Materials:**

- ✓ Binder solely for this class
- ✓ Spiral notebook solely for this class
- ✓ Package of colored pencils
- ✓ 2- Highlighters of different colors (e.g. one pink and one blue)
- ✓ Page flags
- ✓ Index/Tab Separators for the binder
- ✓ Pen/Pencil
- ✓ Earphones/Earbuds
- ✓ Assignment notebook
- ✓ Computer mouse- this is not required, but would be nice to have
- ✓ Your district provided Chromebook- We will have “E-Learning Days” every Friday and they may be used other days upon request.

Absences: It is the student's responsibility to see their classroom teachers on the **FIRST** day back to school to make arrangements for any missed material and/or makeup work. Students will be given a "day for day" when absent, so in other words, if you miss one day you have one day to do the work and turn it in.

- ✓ If a student is going to be out of class due to a pre-arranged absence (e.g. a track meet, field trip, doctor's appointment, etc.), and there is homework due, it is the student's responsibility to get that homework in **BEFORE** leaving school. These types of absences are typically known about many days in advance, so it is up to the student to attend to their academic responsibilities before the absences occur. Simply being out of class is not an excuse for not turning things in on their due dates. In other words, if a student is in the building at any time on the day something is due, they are expected to turn the assignment in. All work submitted late after such an absence will be considered late and graded accordingly.

I realize that you have other classes and obligations, and I am willing to be flexible; however, please be aware that it is crucial to keep the lines of communication open, so please let me know of things as far ahead as you can.

Missing assignments due to unexcused absences will be assigned a grade of zero.

Grading: All points given in this class are added together and divided by the total number given. Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

A+ = 100-98%	A = 97-93%	A- = 92-90%
B+ = 89-87%	B = 86-83%	B- = 82-80%
C+ = 79-77%	C = 76%-73%	C- = 72-70%
D+ = 69-67%	D = 66-63%	D- = 62-60%
F = 59% and lower		

Grades will be based upon, and weighted, as noted below:

Summative Assessments (e.g. unit tests, etc.) - 32%
Formative Assessments (e.g. quizzes, large projects, etc.) - 24%
Practice (e.g. homework, participation, in class assignments, etc.) - 24%
Final Exam- 20%

**** Quiz retakes are permitted once a completed retake request is on file. Retakes must be completed by the following Thursday at 3:30 p.m. Please be aware that the instructor reserves the right to administer a different quiz (e.g. format, questions, etc.) for retakes. ****

**** Grades will be updated in the Parent Portal routinely as time allows. ****

Classroom Code of Conduct:

- ✓ All students are expected to maintain respect at all times for themselves, fellow students, as well as all faculty members. Maintaining respect includes keeping your hands to yourself, avoiding offensive/abusive words, and allowing others to speak without fear of being ridiculed and/or talked over.
- ✓ Respecting the school itself– its property, staff, and rules. This rule is to maintain a learning atmosphere that is friendly, educational, and respectful to all who enter it.
- ✓ Respecting the rights and privacy of your fellow students and your instructor is of the utmost importance. Due to this reason, there are to be no recordings or tapings of lectures or classes without the full consent and knowledge of your instructor(s).
- ✓ ***The use of iPods, cell phones, Chromebooks, or any electronic/noise-making devices is prohibited unless otherwise approved. Use, not requested or approved by the instructor, will result in disciplinary action. You will get ONE warning to put your device away, after that it will be confiscated and taken to the office. On days of assessments, the instructor reserves the right to store all electronic devices at the front of the classroom until testing has been completed in order to promote academic integrity.***
- ✓ We will create a vibrant learning environment, so it is important that everyone has the space and opportunity to voice their ideas and analyses of concepts. If you are talking while another person is speaking (be that classmate, myself, guest speaker, or anyone else) I will address that violation immediately. Additionally, I do not expect you to be Snap Chatting, texting, Tweeting, or working on other things while I am teaching or at any point during our class.
- ✓ All work that you submit for this course should be your own. Plagiarism (submitting someone else’s work or thoughts as your own) and other forms of cheating will be dealt with severely. If you are having problems with an assignment, please come see me BEFORE resorting to the short-sighted practice of cheating. I am here to help you learn and to help you develop the skills necessary to succeed. Because cheating and plagiarism are strict violations within all realms of academia, it will result in the following consequences: a failing grade on the assignment as well as a phone call home, which will be made by the student.
- ✓ Being prepared for class means having the readings, any assigned homework, notes, pen/pencil, etc. when you enter the classroom. Students should be ready to begin class when the bell rings, and as a result, they will not be permitted to go to their locker, the bathroom, or anywhere else once class has started. **PLEASE USE THE RESTROOM AND STOP AT YOUR LOCKERS BEFORE CLASS STARTS.**

Homework and Late Work Policy:

- ✓ All assignments and classroom business will be posted on our Canvas page. If you missed class, forgot a handout at school, don’t remember the homework, forget when something is due, etc. all of it can be found on Canvas. Check it as often as you can!
- ✓ Assignments are expected to be turned in ON TIME, which is at the start of class. If it is not submitted on time, it is late- regardless of whether it is 30 seconds or 30 minutes. “I need to run to my locker” or “It’s in my car” are not valid excuses, and if students retrieve it and bring it in at a later time, it is still late.
- ✓ Opportunities for extra credit may be given to students who have completed all of their assignments, but remember– I DO NOT GIVE GRADES, STUDENTS EARN GRADES. Extra credit may not be enough to save a student at the end of the semester.
- ✓ All missing summative assessments (tests) must be made up within 2 weeks of the date it was initially administered.
- ✓ Late work that is submitted simply because it is incomplete or not done will be accepted for half credit ONLY within 24 hours of the original due date. **ANY LATE WORK SUBMITTED MUST HAVE A LATE FORM ATTACHED OR IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

- ✓ Once 24 hours have passed since the due date, late work will still be accepted and corrected, but please be aware that the point reduction will be significantly greater the later it is submitted by the student. **Tips for Success:**
- ✓ Come to class prepared.
- ✓ Make sure to bring all necessary materials to class each day.
- ✓ Participate in our daily discussions.
- ✓ We will discuss controversial matters this semester. You may, and are certainly encouraged to, disagree with other students, your texts/readings/supplemental materials, and even myself. When you do disagree, I ask that you do so in a respectful and open minded fashion. This does not mean that you have to employ “political correctness” in speech per se, but it does mean that all points of view must be expressed with the due respect for the differing perspectives of others. It goes without saying that name calling is completely unacceptable at all times. In the event that someone disagrees with you, your ideas, analyses, etc., please do not take it personally as we are all coming from different starting places and vantage points in life. Please have our entire learning community in mind when you make an argument in class.
- ✓ Take advantage of our classroom quiz retake policy and tutoring opportunities.
- ✓ There are not a lot of assignments in this class, so be sure to do those that we have and submit them on time.
- ✓ Don't be afraid to ask for help! I genuinely want each of you to do well and succeed- both in my class and in life as a whole. However, there are times when you may need to ask for help. I encourage you to ask without hesitation or anxiety, as all issues and questions will be addressed and hopefully resolved promptly.
- ✓ Finally, make sure to think and question in this class.

"What sets worlds in motion is the interplay of differences, their attractions and repulsions. Life is plurality, death is uniformity. By suppressing differences and peculiarities, by eliminating different civilizations and cultures, progress weakens life and favors death. The ideal of a single civilization for everyone, implicit in the cult of progress and technique, impoverishes and mutilates us. Every view of the world that becomes extinct, every culture that disappears, diminishes a possibility of life."

--Octavio Paz, Mexican poet, writer and diplomat 1914-1998.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The attached list of policies has been designed to help your student understand what is required of them while in our class. However, it is for you as well, as I want to communicate to you how our classes will operate and how your student will be assessed. After reviewing these policies yourself, please sign and return this page. I certainly welcome any questions or comments you may wish to include with your signature. If at any time you have questions regarding your student or their progress, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached most easily at sturner@syc427.org.

Please include an email address if you would like to communicate electronically in regards to your student, their performance, or class activities, as I have found that communicating via email is the most convenient, secure way of contacting parents.

Student's Signature & Date

Parent's Signature & Date

Parent's Email
Address